

DDS&T #4186-66
15 August 1966

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director, Intelligence Support
Chief, DDF Systems Group
Chief, Support Systems Group ✓
Executive Officer, DDS&T

SUBJECT : Automatic Language Processor

1. In October 1965, the Agency acquired a special computer system called the Automatic Language Processor (ALP). The prime user of ALP in the initial one-year test period has been OCR/FDD, in its production of reports translated from foreign language documents. In addition to providing rough Russian-to-English translation, the system has a capability for transcribing stenograph machine shorthand notes to full-formatted English language reports. This memorandum solicits your comments on the applicability of this latter capability to your operations.

2. In the stenotype mode, the system operates as follows: verbal material is transcribed by a stenotypist, either directly or by listening to previously dictated material from a tape recording. The shorthand notes produced by the stenograph machine are read directly into the computer system and a finished English language report is produced. While shorthand notes produced by a conventionally trained stenotypist could be processed by the system, the quality of the finished product (accurate and well-formatted reports) is considerably improved if certain standard procedures are followed by a stenotypist. Such specially-trained stenotypists are available in OCS.

3. The maximum speed of the stenographic keying operation depends on the skill of the individual involved, but normally exceeds conversational rates. The production of the finished product by the computer proceeds at the rate of 60 words per second. The accuracy of the product again depends on the ability of the stenotypist, but reports are now produced on a routine basis with an error rate of less than three words per hundred.

4. Analysis thus far indicates that the principal advantage of this technique over manual stenographic transcription or direct typing from tape recordings is earlier availability of the hard-copy product. The manual transcription method now has a slight cost advantage, but it is expected that the automatic method will continue to improve to the point where the cost advantage will be shifted to this system.

5. If you desire, demonstrations or test runs of the system using your material can be performed to assist you in commenting on the applicability of ALP to your operations. Contact for any information on ALP capabilities and limitations is Mr.

It is requested that interest in the use of this system over the next 12 months be expressed to this Office by 1 September 1966.

CHARLES A. BRIGGS
Director of Computer Services

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Remarks: <p><u>Bob</u>: Besides the FDD/ALP experiment, the only other known interest is the Medical interest in transcription of psychiatric interviews. There may be others — if so, they should be considered before final decision on disposition of the ALP Processor, the major factor for which will be evaluation of the FDD application.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Chuck</p>					
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